



BOARD OF HEALTH

The Thurston County Board of Health has responsibility
and authority for public health in both incorporated
and unincorporated areas of the County.

Minutes for September 11, 2018

1) Call Meeting to Order

Chair Bud Blake called the meeting to order.

In Attendance:

Bud Blake, Chair; John Hutchings, Vice Chair; Gary Edwards, Commissioner; Robin Campbell, Deputy County Manager; Schelli Slaughter, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; Rachel Wood, Health Officer; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:

Vice Chair Hutchings moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

2) Proclamation

Description: SepticSmart Week September 17 – 21, 2018

Art Starry, the Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Environmental Health Division Director, introduced the proclamation. SepticSmart Week is an annual event focused on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems. It was created by the Environmental Protection Agency and is recognized by the Governor of the State of Washington. September 17 – 21 is SepticSmart Week for 2018. Mr. Starry explained there are more than 53,000 on-site sewage septic systems in Thurston County that treat and dispose of almost 12 million gallons of sewage each day. While failing septic systems can pose a public health threat, properly designed, installed and maintained septic systems do an excellent job of treating sewage while helping protect public health and our valuable water resources. Mr. Starry explained PHSS is conducting free *SepticSense* Workshops in September to teach people how to prolong the life of their septic systems and learn about loans and grants for septic system repairs and replacement. He then shared registration information and several dates in September when the Septic Sense 101 Workshops will be held. At the Board members' request, Mr. Starry provided additional information regarding the low-interest loan program available through Craft3 (a certified nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution). Discussion ensued regarding the improvements to the Henderson Inlet water quality which is a result of the Henderson Inlet Septic System Management Program. Vice Chair Hutchings read the Proclamation proclaiming the week of September 17 – 21, 2018 as SepticSmart Week and encouraged septic system owners to learn about their septic systems; and asked for all residents to join the Board in this special observance that contributes to thriving, hopeful, healthy communities where all people are supported and our environment is protected. The Board thanked Mr. Starry for his many years of hard work and dedication.

3) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board - none

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) Nurse Family Partnership Program Update

Gretchen Thaller, PHSS Maternal and Child Health Manager, addressed the Board introducing Whitney Meyer and Amy Longmire, Community Health Nurses in the PHSS Thurston-Mason-Lewis Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program, both of whom had NFP clients in attendance to present and share their experiences with the program. Ms. Thaller explained the NFP program is an evidenced based home visiting program which pairs a registered nurse with a pregnant mother to provide support, information and resources for her, her baby and family until the baby turns two years old. In January of this year, Thurston County's NFP program became the first in Washington State to pursue a three-county partnership effort. The program consists of 13 nurses which includes two bilingual nurses. Ms. Thaller explained substantial savings to government and societal costs; shared positive program outcomes, the numbers of mothers and babies served, and the number of home visits completed since January of this year. She explained there is a 133% increase in families served over the last year with a 56% increase in the number of home visits; and the number of referrals has increased substantially.

Whitney Myers addressed the Board and introduced Laura, her NFP client. Laura, along with her newborn baby, addressed the Board sharing her story of referral to the NFP program through WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. She then described the positive impact the NFP program has made for her and her baby; and expressed her appreciation of Ms. Myers' support at the hospital and at home after her baby was born. Ms. Myers explained she is a three quarter time employee with 19 clients; and she makes four to five home visits each day. The Board thanked Laura for her participation in the program and commended the NFP program for the important services they provide to new mothers, their babies and families.

Katie, a NFP client of Amy Longmire, addressed the Board sharing her story and appreciation of Ms. Longmire's support during her high risk pregnancy and at the hospital after her baby was born. At the Board's request, Ms. Longmire explained many of the NFP program's nurse positions are funded under several different grants. She noted she is a full time employee with 27 clients, 14 of which are in the DSHS TANF program; she visits four to five families each day; she has open communications with her clients via email and texts throughout the day; and responds to many referrals from DSHS. At Vice Chair Hutchings' question regarding the program's connection with homeless teens, Ms. Longmire explained Cathy Sherman, another NFP Community Health Nurse, works with many young teens, including many low-income, or those with unstable housing or homeless teens. Vice Chair Hutchings thanked Ms. Sherman for her work with our community's vulnerable youth.

Ms. Thaller acknowledged Cecelia Perez, one of the bi-lingual NFP Program Community Health Nurses. She also acknowledged Matthew Richardson, the new Government Affairs Manager for the *Nurse-Family Partnership* National Service Office which provides funds to the PHSS NFP program. Ms. Thaller then noted on average each full-time nurse serves 25 active clients and there is currently a wait list of more than 50 families. She then noted she is celebrating 15 years with the PHSS NFP program. The Board thanked Ms. Thaller and all of the NFP nurses for their hard work and dedication; they thanked Katie and

Laura for their participation in the program and for sharing their stories; and acknowledged the success of the annual NFP picnic.

5) **Thurston Thrives Update – Climate & Clean Energy**

Liz Davis, Child, Family & Community Wellness Division Director, introduced Krosbie Carter the Thurston Thrives Director. Ms. Carter addressed the Board providing her background and spoke briefly about the Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council. She invited everyone to attend the monthly council meetings held on the third Monday of each month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Thurston EDC (Economic Development Council) Center for Business and Innovation, located at 4220 6th Ave SE in Lacey. Each month Ms. Krosbie will provide the Board with a Thurston Thrives update. She then introduced Chris Hawkins, Program Manager for the PHSS Community Engagement, Evidence and Partnerships (CEEP) Section.

Mr. Hawkins addressed the Board to provide an update on the Thurston Thrives Climate & Clean Energy Work Group which is composed of members from Thurston Thrives Action Teams, local governments, non-profits, businesses and interested residents who are working together to reduce climate changing emissions from our local community. He then discussed the Greenhouse Effect and the key local health impacts caused by warmer temperatures, heavier rains and the rise of the sea levels. He then shared photographs of examples of local impacts of flooding in downtown Olympia due to sea level rise; electric pole damage along Yelm Highway in Lacey due to severe weather; and the Scatter Creek Fire in 2017 near Rochester. Mr. Hawkins gave a brief background of the Work Group; acknowledged their participants; and shared the Team's Strategy map which recognizes the importance of both adapting to and mitigating climate change, but focuses the team's effort on the reduction of emissions as a preventive strategy. He then discussed the Group's Phase 1 main accomplishments which included assisting Climate Adaptation Plan Development and Thurston County Comprehensive Plan Update. He also explained that in early 2018, the Work Group sent the Board of County Commissioners a memorandum; provided a briefing on climate change; and shared an opportunity for Thurston County to participate in a mitigation planning project in collaboration with Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater. The Board took action on the project and has recently affirmed the targets for the climate mitigation plan. Mr. Hawkins then shared and discussed Thurston County's Greenhouse Gas Emissions data comparisons between 2010 and 2016. He then discussed Phase 2 of the Climate Action Plan which included strategies and actions; an implementation plan; and public engagement. In conclusion, Mr. Hawkins noted a group of local partners will work together to help develop the plan; noted the connection this work has with multiple Thurston Thrives Action areas such as community design, economy, environment, food and housing; and then discussed the economic development and health benefits of clean energy. Mr. Hawkins provided the Board members with a Snapshot: *Regional Climate Mitigation Plan* document. In response to Commissioner Edwards's question, he then explained the work group has communicated with King County regarding ideas that have worked for them in their area. At Chair Blake's request, Mr. Hawkins explained Climate Migration is part of the Climate Adaptation Plan. For additional information contact Chris Hawkins at (360) 867-2513 or by email at hawkincc@co.thurston.wa.us; or visit <http://thurstonthrives.org/climate-clean-energy/>

6) **Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization Update**

Mark Freedman, Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization (TMBHO) Chief Executive Officer, addressed the Board explaining the BHO has been in operation since April 1, 2016 and is funded by the

State of Washington. Joe Avalos, Chief Operations Officer, addressed the Board discussing BHO programs and services which include over 40 contracted providers for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment. He then discussed the Mobile Outreach Service which is fully implemented in both Thurston and Mason Counties seven days per week with 200 Thurston clients served. Mr. Freedman described additional programs and services such as the Tumwater Triage with 326 clients served – 70% law enforcement involvement. He then discussed the Mason County Evaluation and Treatment Center, funded by a four million dollar Commerce grant to TMBHO, which is currently under construction with an estimated completion in 2019. Mr. Avalos discussed the Olympia Health and Recovery Services (OHRS) which has 20 Designated Crisis Responders (DCR) that provide involuntary treatment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to the seven county region. Mr. Freedman described the transition to Fully Integrated Managed Care (FIMC) in 2020 and the conversion of the TMBHO from a Behavioral Health Organization to an Administrative Service Organization (ASO) beginning January 1, 2020. He noted the TMBHO-ASO will retain Non-Medicaid funding for crisis services and funding for involuntary placed non-Medicaid individuals. Mr. Freedman further explained the \$50 million per year payment for Medicaid services in Thurston-Mason Region will transfer to three Managed Care Organizations: Molina Healthcare, United Healthcare, and Amerigroup. At the Board Members' request, Mr. Freedman provided additional information and clarification about TMBHO and ASO funding. The Board thanked Mr. Freedman and all of the TMBHO staff. Mr. Freedman acknowledged the BHO Management Team and family. He also thanked the Board for their support.

7) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities –

Vice Chair Hutchings noted he received his flu vaccine.

8) Director's Report

Schelli Slaughter, PHSS Director, reported:

- Thanked everyone for their presentations; thanked the mothers and babies for sharing their stories and participating in the NFP program; and thanked the TMBHO for their work and partnership in providing mental health and substance use disorder treatment.
- Proposed County Infant at Work Pilot Policy update – a proposed policy will be submitted to the Board for approval later in the month; discussed the project and the shared the multiple benefits the program promotes; if approved the pilot project will be implemented at PHSS and if successful would be offered to other county departments in the future; and explained how these efforts promote the Thurston Thrives initiative to improve social determinates of health.
- Child Death Review (CDR) and Prevention – state law authorizes Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) to conduct child death reviews; Local CDR Teams review deaths of children, under the age of 18, who have unexpectedly lost their lives identifying preventable circumstances in these deaths and consider strategies to improve health and safety for all children; shared state and local statistics; described and gave an update for our local CDR Team; this Team met the previous week which resulted in the convening of a Youth Suicide Extreme Team.
- September National Suicide Awareness month/National Suicide Awareness Day September 10th – spoke in support of suicide awareness; shared the Suicide Life Line phone number (800) 273-8255 for 24 hour support and noted those in need may always call 911.

- Acknowledged the Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization (TMBHO) for their leadership and partnership in preventing unnecessary deaths and promoting access to treatment, including prevention of opioid overdoses and public health issues as related to the use of injection drugs.
- Syringe Services Program update – staff are preparing for a community naloxone distribution event to be held in conjunction with the TMBHO later in September.
- Opioid Task Force update – the team’s next meeting is October 29th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.; they are developing a local opioid response plan; anyone interested in participating is invited to attend.
- A Regional Housing Summit was held last month, sponsored by Thurston Thrives, the Thurston Chamber Foundation, and Thurston County; it was attended by city, county, state, and community leaders; discussion included the challenges of affordable housing and incentive opportunities for collaboration to address our community’s housing crisis.
- Hazardous Weather Task Force update – the Task Force met last month for a table top exercise to prepare for activation of the Code Blue Hazardous Weather Response Plan; more information to come in October.
- Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) last month approved the 5 year Homeless Housing Plan; the Plan includes a new Homeless Prevention Response Coordinator, which is currently under recruitment.
- Annual Point in Time (PIT) Census – the PHSS Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention is preparing to perform the PIT census in January.
- Developmental Disabilities Program update – the program hosted the first Thurston County High School Transition Committee meeting; the committee promises to be a strong forum for discussing the School to Work Program; its related processes; and building partnerships.
- Thurston Thrives Community Design Action team update – the team submitted their Final Impact Report in the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge; the local project, coordinated by PHSS, is in the running for grand prize awards; one in ten of the finalists will receive an award; the project will make further improvements that increase access to physical activity opportunities in our county.
- Environmental Health (EH) Division update – the 2017 Water Resources Monitoring Report is now available on-line; the water quality data was collected by EH staff during the summer of 2017 from lakes and stream water; the monitoring program is funded by the local storm and surface water utilities of the County, Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater; the report is available at <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehrp/annualreport.html>
- Vital Records update – for the month of August 456 birth certificates and 824 death certificates were issued.
- Dr. Bradley Waite passed away last week; he was a long time Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteer; he will be greatly missed; his memorial will be held September 29, 2018 at South Sound Manor.
- PHSS Disease Control and Prevention update – this past month staff investigated reported communicable disease cases including Campylobacter, Giardia, Salmonella, Chlamydia, and Gonorrhea; worked on information to send forward to support the Public Health system request to the legislature for funding through Foundational Public Health Services; worked on a collaborative project to prepare for Hepatitis A immunizations for the vulnerable homeless; and staff received training for Hepatitis C testing and counseling, and are working with Dr. Wood on a testing protocol.
- Flu vaccinations – continues to encourage youth returning to school and vulnerable adults to get vaccinated.

9) Health Officer's Report –

Dr. Rachel Wood reported:

- Introduced Dr. Nathan Brown who is in his last year as a family medicine resident in the Providence St. Peters residency program; Dr. Wood thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with residents. The Board welcomed Dr. Brown.
- West Nile Virus (WNV) update - WNV was detected in mosquito samples collected in August in Pierce County; this is the first detection of the Virus in mosquitoes west of the Cascades; WNV is a serious illness that can affect people; of the people who get infected, less than 1% develop a severe illness.
- Influenza update – influenza is increasing in our community; the flu mist, a needleless application, is available this year; encourages everyone to get vaccinated.
- Back to School Immunization Clinic update - acknowledged the MRC for their great work with the clinics; and provided vaccination numbers for the three of four vaccination clinics already held.

Robin Campbell questioned TMBHO follow-up with transition to ASO; she is questioning what impact it will have on the County budget; noted work is to continue with the TMBHO Management and Ms. Slaughter to clarify the effect.

Dr. Wood noted there will be one more back to school immunization clinic on September 22, 2018 at Kaiser Permanente Olympia Medical Center on Lilly Road.

10) Adjournment – Vice Chair Hutchings moved to adjourn the meeting of September 11, 2018.

Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously. The motion carried.

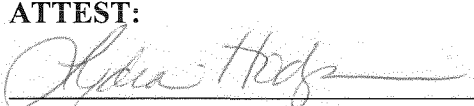
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


BUD BLAKE, Chair


JOHN HUTCHINGS, Vice Chair


GARY EDWARDS, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: November 6, 2018

Thurston Community Television (TCTV) - The Board of Health meetings are aired on TCTV each week on Sundays at 3:30 p.m., Mondays at 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m.